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Vandals responsible for Douglas County area power outage

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Bonneville Power Administration

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PORTLAND, Ore. – Vandals on Oct. 9 shot out insulators on a Bonneville Power Administration 230,000 volt power line located near Eugene, Ore. The damage left customers of Douglas Electric Coop and The City of Drain without power for more than three hours.

Jeff Millennor, a BPA security specialist, says this kind of vandalism is dangerous because of high voltages on the line. "The loss of electricity can create life or death situations for hospitals and other facilities where electricity is necessary to keep people alive," says Millennor.

BPA currently is investigating the incident. Repairs will cost the agency \$6,000 says Millennor. Anyone who has information related to this crime is urged to call BPA's Crime Witness Line.

Since 1994, BPA's Crime Witness Program has generated hundreds of tips resulting in dozens of arrests and thousands of dollars of recovered property and, most important, deterrence of future crime. In 1999, 202 insulators were replaced; representing an 88 percent decrease from the historic average of 1,723 units replaced each year before the program began. Ratepayers have saved more than \$2 million because of this program. Informants can call toll free 1-800-437-2744. The identity of informants is kept strictly confidential.

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